



News Release

Maryland National Guard



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Date: August 13, 2004

Who: Maryland Army National Guard is conducting a welcome home celebration for the 290th Military Police Company.

What: 120 citizen-soldiers were deployed to Afghanistan for nine-month where they supported Operation Enduring Freedom. They will be receiving individual and unit awards.

Where: The Maryland Army National Guard Armory in Parkville
CW4 Melvin Sherr Armory
3727 Putty Hill Ave
Parkville, MD 21236

When: August 14, 2004
11:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Why: During their deployment north of Kabul they became aware of an orphanage that was in need of blankets, clothes and toys. The unit's Family Support Group, made up of family members of the deployed soldiers started actively seeking donations for the orphanage. Donated items were sent to the unit overseas for delivery to the orphaned children.

Within 24 hours of the September 11 attacks, members of the 290th and 200th MP companies along with the 115th MP Battalion were at the Pentagon providing force protection and crime-scene security. The units returned home on September 29 and on October 1, were again mobilized to Fort Stewart, Ga., where they performed law enforcement and force protection duties. In December 2001 the 290th and the 200th MP companies were sent back to the Pentagon to provide force protection until October 2002.

Many members of the unit are veterans of the Persian Gulf War in 1990-1991 and served in the 200th and 290th MP companies that guarded approximately 25,000 Iraqi prisoners of war in Saudi Arabia

Visuals: The media is welcome to film and interview the citizen-soldiers